

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/783,697

Applicant(s)

ROBBINS, ALAN R.

Examiner

Cameron Saadat

Art Unit

3714

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 9/23/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1 and 3-16.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☒ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☒ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Thomas P. O'Connell on November 7, 2006. The application has been amended as follows:

In the Claims:

Claim 3: line, replace "a mobile platform," with -- a mobile platform, wherein the mobile platform exhibits free and unbounded movement in all directions in relation to a support surface; --

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Claims 1 and 3-16 are allowed. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Patentability is seen in, although not limited to the combination of elements specifically claimed in independent claim one. In particular the prior art fails to teach *inter alia*, a rider controlled two-wheeled vehicular motion simulator having a mobile platform that exhibits free and unbounded movement in all directions in relation to a support surface; a simulated two-wheeled vehicle with a frame, a front wheel rotatably retained relative to the frame, a rear wheel rotatably retained to the frame and a steering arrangement for enabling a steering of the front wheel; wherein the simulated two-wheeled vehicle is retained relative to the mobile platform with a roll axis; and in combination with the claimed control system for imparting motion to the platform and the two wheeled vehicle in response to user control inputs, and wherein the mobile platform is propelled in response to user input to an accelerator control; and wherein the mobile platform is steered in response to user control, and wherein angular velocity is imparted to the rear wheel in response to user input to the accelerator control; and a tilting arrangement for tilting the two-wheeled vehicle through bank angle relative to the mobile platform.

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The closest prior art of record does not teach or fairly suggest this combination. For example, Letovsky et al. (US 5,006,072) teaches a motorcycle simulator on a mobile platform. However, the mobile platform is bound to a support surface that is a track system, and does not exhibit free and unbounded movement in all directions in relation to a support surface as claimed. In addition, Forbes (US 6,382,338) teaches a snow vehicle designed to emulate steering and balancing characteristics of motorcycles or bicycles. Although Forbes teaches an unbounded mobile platform, the reference lacks the features of providing a rear wheel rotatably retained to the frame, wherein angular velocity is imparted to the rear wheel in response to user input to the accelerator control.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:


- Letovsky et al. (US 5,006,072) discloses a motorcycle simulator on a mobile platform. However, the mobile platform is bound to a support surface that is a track system, and does not exhibit free and unbounded movement in all directions in relation to a support surface.
- Forbes (US 6,382,338) teaches a snow vehicle designed to emulate steering and balancing characteristics of motorcycles or bicycles.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cameron Saadat whose telephone number is (571) 272-4443. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00 - 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Olszewski can be reached on (571) 272-6788. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Cameron Saadat 
November 7, 2006


KATHLEEN MOSSER
PRIMARY EXAMINER